Numb. 78.

THE OBSERVATOR.

...marks on an Answer to The shortest way with the Dissenters. *The Arbitrary Designs of the Author detected. The Nature of the Qualification of the Sacrament for Publick Offices discuss'd. The State of* Greenwich *Hospital in this Reign.*

From Saturday January the 16th, to Wednesday January the 20th, 170$\frac{2}{3}$.

...untry-m. MAster *Observator*, Have you perus'd the Answer to *The shortest way with ...e Dissenters, wherein the Authors Name is ex-...'d, His Practices detected, and his Hellish De-...gns set in a true Light, that the Party which stic-...s for him, may rightly know him; and that which ...against him, continue to triumph over him.* Pray ...our Opinion of this Book?

Obs. I don't know what Party stickles for ...r. *Foe*, all good Men Condemn'd that Book. ...ot that Party which is against him, and con-...nues to Triumph over him, is the most despi-...able Party amongst the Sons of Men. To tri-...mph over Persons in Affliction, and under the ...frowns of a Government justly incens'd, is nei-...ther the part of a Man nor a Christian. When ...Men have laid themselves open to the Lash of ...the Law, 'tis anticipating the Executive Pow-...r to Condemn before Tryal and Conviction. ...I thought the Secretary of State had published ...in the *Gazett* the best Answer to Mr. *Foe*'s Book ...that could be written, and that it needed not ...the Answers of *Papists* or *Tantivies*; nor is it a ...small *Disreputation* to our *Church* to have *Men of ...Dissolute Principles* Espouse her Interest. But this ...is a Glorious Opportunity for the *High-Flyers* ...and *Jacobites*, and every Hound amongst 'em, ...must Piss on this Occasion.

I'll assure you the Dissenters are mightily be-...holding to our *Arbitrary Author*, for the great ...favour he allows them, Page 7, says he, *Let 'em ...enjoy their Estates a Gods Name.* Yes, and that ...they will do as long as they have a *Right to our ...Laws*, which every Man has who is a Native of ...these our Realms, and by those Laws every man ...is empower'd to Defend them against any Usur-...ping Power whatsoever. When once he comes ...to meddle with *Estates*, the *Liberty* and *Property* ...of the Subject, however Distinguish'd in rela-...tion to *Religion*, he will find more Hands about ...his Ears than his own: And I can assure you I ...should not have gone so far out of my way from ...material Business now before me, to have met ...with this *Incendiary*, had he not been so very Fa-...miliar with the *Liberty of the Subject*. He adds, *'Tis time for Us to have a Season to get Money in ...as well as they*; *and that* Places of Trust *belonged ...to those who are best Qualified for them*, i. e. *who ...have taken the* Sacrament. 'Tis well for him if ...the Sacrament be a *Qualification*; but 'tis great ...pitty it should Introduce a Person into the Pub-...lick, who is not *Qualify'd* to Score on a Stick, ...and be a Secretary *to a Brick-kiln*. And how ...well these Authors are quallify'd to receive ...the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, let their ...late Blasphemous Bawdy Letters from *The Li-...ving to the Living* testifie on their behalf. Pi-...ty it is there shou'd be any tempted by a Law ...to *Eat and Drink their own Damnation* to get a Livelyhood. If none were admitted to the Sacrament, but such as could give a good Account of the *Doctrines of the Christian Religion*, and of their *Knowledge in Discerning the Lords Body* in the Sacrament, and were of good Lives and Conversations, many who are now for the Sacramental Bill, would be as much against it. And all that know the Doctrines of the Christian Religion, must allow, that there is a Qualification far more Necessary to the receiving of the Lords Supper, then the Sacrament it self is Necessary towards the Qualifying a Person for an Office.

This *Occasional Conformity Bill* has been the *Occasion* of a deal of Scribble, and is a Subject easily Comprehended, since it has been so Learnedly Discours'd by Dr. *Jacobs*, to the Wisking Club in *Phillpot-Lane*. I wonder People should trouble their Heads about Offices, who are Qualify'd neither in a *Civil* or *Religious* Capacity. What a pretty Show would a parcel of *Jacobs* Mustachoe Myrmidons make at Court? 'Tis true One of their Smellers would be more Effectual towards the Frighting of the *Mice* out of Her Majesties Pantry, than the Smellers of Twenty Cats; but this would Supplant Her Majesties Ratt-Catcher, who has a Pattent for his Place: Since the Publishing of that Famous Sermon, the Whisking Club has wonderfully Encreas'd, so that in a short time some of the *Cat-Headed* Mortals may have their Mission to Gather Churches, and set up the Trade of *Purring* and *Caterwawling* through the whole Kingdom; for 'tis a great pitty a New Fashion in Religion should be confin'd to the narrow compass of *George Keith*'s Tabernacle, who first Preacht *Novelties* and *Reformation* at *Turners-Hall*.

Country-m. Pray, Sir, suffer me to read you the vile Scandal this Impudent Fellow has cast upon King *William*, of ever Glorious Memory, pag. 11 says, this *Son of Hell*, *Your Saviour*, *King* William, *that redeem'd you when you were under no other Bondage than that which you Petitioned for, the Freedom of being tollerated to Sin, suffer'd you to go on with your show, to Dissemble with God Almighty, to frequent his Altars, and afterwards return to the House of* Rimmon.

Obs. I as much wonder at the Impudence of this Wretch in mentioning the Lady which now Sits on the Throne, of whom he will say as bad as of King *William*, when ever God, for our Sins, shall suffer Her Head to be laid in the Dust, before which Time, I hope the Groaning Earth will be eased of the Burden of the *Enemies* of our *Peace* and *Tranquility*. King *William* in a Political Sence, was indeed our Saviour; He saved us both from *Popery* and *Tyranny*; and His Name will be precious to after Ages, when the Memory of His Enemies shall Rot: And I have made

made it my Obſervation, that theſe People do not reflect upon the Reign of King *William* on Account of the Extravagant Conſumption of the *Publick Treaſure* by his *Favourites* and *Officers*, but becauſe he was a *Friend to Liberty*, and Reſcued this Nation from *Slavery*. We have two ſorts of People among us, *Modern Whiggs*, and *Old Tories*, who will give no King or Queen of *England* their good Words, except they have an Opportunity to pick their Pockets. Such Power has *Faction* or *Self-Intereſt* in this Nation, that the greateſt Saint who wears a Crown, is a Devil to One Party or other. Pray God give Her Majeſty the Wiſdom of the Serpent, in diſcerning the Ills which attend Government in the preferring One Party above another, which very Thing has made ſo many Crowned Heads ſit uneaſie on their Thrones; and that according to the Words of the Great *William*, in His laſt Speech, ſhe may diſtinguiſh no Parties in *England*, but ſuch as are for *the* Proteſtant Religion *and the* preſent Eſtabliſhment, *and of thoſe who mean a* Popiſh Prince *and a* French *Government*.

But after all, tho' theſe things may Amuſe Unthinking Men, and may exaſperate the Collerick; tho' theſe *Heats* and *Feuds* may *Diſturb* the *Publick Quiet*, they can never *deſtroy* the *Engliſh Conſtitution*, whoſe Foundation is as unſhaken as that of the Univerſe. Times and Seaſons are in a continual Flux, and the *Preſent* gives way to *Succeeding* Ages; but the *Laws* and *Liberties* of *Engliſhmen* are ſtill the ſame, and what is now our *Birth-Right*, will be the like to our Poſterity thro' Innumerable Ages to come. The Waves of contending Parties may daſh againſt our Conſtitution, but can never leſſen it. *A Presbyterin Sheriffs going in Pomp*, as he ſays, to a *Conventicle*, ſignifies no more to the *Liberties of England*, than our Authors going in *Pomp to Tyburn*. I would therefore have no *Engliſhman* Diſturb'd at the Factions when they ſpit their *Wild-Fire* in Print; 'tis like caſting *Hot-Water* to *Windward* at Sea, it will fly back in their own Faces, and will Scald themſelves, and not the Publick. I'll paſs my Word for it, 'twill do us no *Miſchief*, during the Serene Reign of our Gracious Queen *Ann*.

Country-m. I ſhall never believe the taking of the *Sacrament* with the Church of *England*, will make a Knave an Honeſt Man in an *Office*; nor that the want of taking the *Sacrament* will make an Honeſt Man a Knave; methinks alſo I know not how the Clergy can have the Priviledge to give Men a *Paſs-Port* into a Civil Employment; it ſeems Unnatural; we don't chuſe them into our Pariſhes; nay, not ſo much as approve of them, and that they ſhould certifie us fit for Employments, is a thing I don't underſtand. The Folks of *Greenwich* Hoſpital, I ſuppoſe, have taken the *Sacrament*, and for all that the Poor Sailors have had no Juſtice done them in that Reſpect. But Pray, Sir, give the Company an Account how that Hoſpital ſtands in this Reign, I find it was bad enough in the Laſt.

Obſ. The Act of Parliament Paſs'd in King *Williams* Reign for Eſtabliſhing the Commiſſioners for that Hoſpital, expired Six Months after the Demiſe of that King, as did all Commiſſions Granted to Officers by thoſe Commiſſioners; yet I underſtand ſome of thoſe Officers have Acted ſince the Kings Deceaſe; the Management of that Affair is now in the Crown, and 'tis in Her Majeſties Prerogative to appoint Commiſſioners and Officers for that Purpoſe. The Partizans of the Hoſpital, I hear, have drawn up a Commiſſion ready for Her Majeſty to Sign, whereby Twenty Five Directors are appointed to take Care of the Management, and are to have Twenty Shilling each, *per* Court night if Demanded. All the Nobility and most of the Gentry, who were Commiſſioners, and who have paid their Money according to Subſcription, are left out of this Commiſſion, as are the *Wealthy* and *Honeſt* Citizens, who were more likely to have done the Nation and Sailors Service, than Perſons Superannuated on the Navy Books, and who are by Age turn'd into Old Women or Worſe; we ſhall have a fine Management in that Hoſpital of *Vanb——gh's* Lift of Directors, ſhould paſs into a Commiſſion. At this Rate my Lord *Van Hump*, will be Director General, and then he and his Adherents, will be yet Finer and Richer Fellows.

The Noble Lords who are left out of this New Commiſſion have juſt Reaſon to be incenſed, and to withdraw their Charity from the Hoſpital, as King *William* did four Years before His Deceaſe. What Men are ſo fit as thoſe Noble and Charitable Lords, and the ſitting Aldermen of the City of *London*, who Live on the Spot, to be concerned in the *Management* of that Hoſpital? Who could have thought that Sir *Robert Clayton*, who is a Gentleman of ſo great an Eſtate, and whoſe Extenſive Charity is ſo well known at St. *Thomas's* Hoſpital, ſhould be left out of the Liſt of Directors for *Greenwich* Hoſpital? As alſo Sir *Richard Onſlow*, who with ſuch Dilligence and Pains has acted for the good of that Hoſpital. But that Men of *Integrity* and *Juſtice* would ſtand in the way of thoſe, who are to make their Pennyworths of the poor Sailors. But 'tis hoped the Noble Lords about the Queens *Perſon*, who are all in the Intereſt of *England*, will put a ſtop to the paſſing of this Commiſſion.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator* you need have ſaid no more of *Greenwich* Hoſpital; you went a ſtep too far in your laſt, in ſaying the *Committee* never reported the Affair of *Greenwich* Hoſpital, which is a high Reflection on the Parliament.

Obſ. I proteſt, honeſt *Country-man*, I never ſaw it in the Votes, and I was led into that Error, becauſe the Propoſals for endowing the ſaid Hoſpital laid before that Committee, by my ſelf and other Friends to the Sailors, were not reported, which Propoſals we were Encouraged to lay before the Committe by Order of the Houſe. But I have been Yeſterday acquainted by a very Honourable *Member* of the Houſe, Chairman to the ſaid Committee, that their Proceeding, as far as they went on the Order of the Houſe, was reported that Seſſion. I humbly preſume, that Honourable Member, nor any other of the Houſe of Commons, will not think I inſerted it out of Deſign, as a Reflection on the Honourable Houſe of Commons, who ſuffered ſo much in the late Reign for Vindicating their Rights, and oppoſing the *Legionite*-Forces, when it was eſteem'd at Court more then a Miſdemeanor to write a Line in Defence of the beſt of Parliaments; and all that I have ſaid on the Subject of *Greenwich* Hoſpital, is to do the Sailors Juſtice; without whoſe Aſſiſtance the Liberties of *Engliſhmen* are in Eminent Danger.

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